

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 50-52, 54-59 and 61-63; cancel claims 64-70; and add new Claims 71-75, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

50. (Currently Amended) A system for utilizing a workflow language, comprising:

a computer including a processing device operating thereon;

a program source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the program source file includes a source code and classes therein and a workflow definition created using a workflow language that is specified in the form of annotations to the source code and the classes, and wherein said workflow language ~~comprises a Java programming language extended~~ extends the source code with a plurality of workflow constructs, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met; and

means for creating a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including

means for the computer to read the source file and process the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches,

means for activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch, and

means for determining when the certain conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the workflow definition is invoked by executing a software [[Java]] application.

52. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as XML commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, further comprising a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the program source file is a [[Java]] Web Service file that includes the workflow definition constructs.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 54, wherein the workflow definition constructs of the [[Java]] Web Service file also references [[Java]] methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

56. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 54, wherein workflow definitions are provided as a separate [[Java]] Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked by the [[Java]] Web Service file using the workflow definition constructs, to use the workflow as defined by the [[Java]] Work Flow file.

57. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a workflow language, comprising:  
selecting a program source file including a workflow definition created using a workflow language, wherein ~~said workflow language comprises a Java programming language extended~~ the program source file includes a source code and classes therein and a workflow definition created using a workflow language that is specified in the form of annotations to the source code and the classes, and wherein said workflow language extends the source code with a plurality of workflow constructs, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met; and  
using a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including

processing, using a computer including a processing device operating thereon, the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches,

activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch, and

determining when the certain conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the workflow definition is invoked by executing a software [[Java]] application.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as XML commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising using a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the program source file is a [[Java]] Web Service file that includes the workflow definition constructs.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein the workflow definition constructs of the [[Java]] Web Service file also references [[Java]] methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, wherein workflow definitions are provided as a separate [[Java]] Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked

by the [[Java]] Web Service file using the workflow definition constructs, to use the workflow as defined by the [[Java]] Work Flow file.

64-70. (Canceled).

71. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein the Web Service file includes the workflow definition constructs as a plurality of XML workflow annotations to the source code and classes defined in the Web Service file.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the XML workflow annotations to the source code and classes define a flow logic that can then reference the methods and variables defined in the Web Service file.

73. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the Web Service file includes the workflow definition constructs as a plurality of XML workflow annotations to the source code and classes defined in the Web Service file.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the XML workflow annotations to the source code and classes define a flow logic that can then reference the methods and variables defined in the Web Service file.

75. (New) A system for utilizing a workflow language, comprising:  
a computer including a processing device operating thereon;  
a Web Service source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the Web Service source file includes a source code and classes therein and a workflow definition created using a workflow language that is specified in the form of annotations to the source code and the classes, and wherein said workflow language extends the source code with a plurality of workflow constructs provided as XML commands that are then used as the annotations to the source code and the classes, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate

workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met;

a Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked by the Web Service file using the workflow constructs; and

a logic on the computer for creating a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including reading the Web Service source file and the Work Flow file, and processing the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches, and then activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch.